Aundha Naganath or Nageshwar Jyotirlinga Temple, Hingoli District, Maharashtra

Ref: Wikipedia

Aundha Nagnath is the eighth of the twelve Jyotirlingas

Shri Nageshwar Jyotirlinga, Garbhagriha (Sanctum)

Aundha Nagnath Temple is an ancient Shiva temple located at Aundha Nagnath in the Hingoli district of Maharashtra, India. It is considered to be the eighth of the twelve Jyotirlinga shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple is a significant historical heritage site, representing a confluence of history, architecture, faith, and culture.

The temple's history is linked to various significant periods, from the Pandavas of the Mahabharata to the Yadavas of Devagiri and later Ahilyabai Holkar. The legend of the temple rotating for the great saint Namdev further elevates its importance. Key features of the temple include its unique blend of Hemadpanti and Maratha architectural styles, a distinctive basement sanctum (garbhagriha), scenic surrounding hills, and a grand chariot festival during Mahashivratri. The Archaeological Survey of India has declared the temple a 'Protected Monument of National Importance'.

Religious significance and Identity:

Position as a Jyotirlinga

According to the Shiva Purana and other religious texts, Aundha Nagnath is the **eighth** of the twelve Jyotirlingas. A Jyotirlinga represents the radiant, self-manifested pillar of light of Shiva. The name 'Nagnath' signifies Shiva as the Lord of Serpents. It is a strong belief among devotees that worshipping here provides relief from *Kaal Sarp Dosh* and other serpent-related afflictions.

Darukavana and Mythology

As per mythological beliefs, the ancient name of this region was **Darukavana** (a forest of deodar trees). A story in the Shiva Purana states that a demoness named Daruka performed penance in this forest and pleased Goddess Parvati. Misusing her boons, Daruka began to torment people, including a devout Shiva follower named Supriya. In response to Supriya's prayers, Lord Shiva appeared, vanquished the demon, and, at the request of his devotees, settled here permanently in the form of a Jyotirlinga named 'Nagnath'. *(Note: This legend is also associated with the Nageshwar Jyotirlinga in Gujarat, but in Maharashtra, Aundha Nagnath is revered as the Jyotirlinga of Darukavana.)*

Sant Namdev and the Temple's Legend

A famous event from the life of the great Varkari saint Namdev (c. 1270–1350 CE) is associated with this temple. It is said that when Sant Namdev was singing kirtans (devotional songs), the temple priests obstructed him and asked him to move to the back of the temple. In deep devotion, Namdev prayed to the Lord. Pleased with his devotion, the entire temple is said to have miraculously rotated, turning its entrance to face him.

The current layout of the temple, with the statue of Nandi at the back, is believed to corroborate this story. This event has made the temple a sacred pilgrimage site for the Varkari sect as well.

Connection with Sikhism

Aundha Nagnath Temple holds a special place in Sikhism as well. This connection is primarily through Sant Namdev, 61 of whose hymns (shabads/bani) are included in the holy scripture of Sikhism, the **Guru Granth Sahib**. Although a revered Varkari saint, Namdev is honored in Sikhism as a great 'Bhagat' (devotee).

The fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev, while compiling the Guru Granth Sahib, included not only the teachings of Sikh Gurus but also the works of various Indian saints like Namdev, Kabir, and Ravidas, promoting the message of 'One God'. As Aundha Nagnath is an integral part of Sant Namdev's life, it has become a place of reverence in Sikh tradition.

It is also believed that the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, visited this sacred Jyotirlinga shrine during his travels in Southern India (known as 'udasis'). Consequently, many Sikhs consider this site to be sanctified by Guru Nanak's presence. Due to these historical and spiritual ties, Aundha Nagnath stands as a symbol of shared faith for both Hindus and Sikhs.

History

Ancient Origins and Yadava Period

The temple's mythical origin is credited to the Pandavas from the Mahabharata. According to legend, Yudhishthira built the temple during their period of exile.

Historically, the original structure of the temple is dated to the 13th century, during the reign of the Yadavas of Devagiri. It is a prime example of the **Hemadpanti** architectural style,

developed by their minister Hemadri Pandit. This style is characterized by interlocking stones without the use of mortar.

Renovation by Ahilyabai Holkar

During the medieval period, the temple suffered significant damage due to invasions by the Delhi Sultanate. Later, in the 18th century, **Ahilyabai Holkar** (1725–1795), the ruler of the Holkar kingdom of Indore, undertook the renovation of numerous Jyotirlinga shrines across India. It is widely believed that she also renovated the Aundha Nagnath temple.

This renovation likely included the reconstruction of the upper part of the temple and its shikhara (spire). The current spire exhibits a Maratha style of architecture, distinct from the original Hemadpanti base.

Architecture

The temple's architecture is a blend of two distinct styles from different periods:

- **Original Hemadpanti Structure:** The base of the temple, including its outer walls and the sanctum, is from the Yadava period (13th century). This section features intricate carvings of deities, mythological scenes, elephants, and geometric designs.
- **Maratha-era Reconstruction:** The upper portion and the spire (shikhara) were rebuilt in a later period, likely the 18th century.
- **Basement Sanctum (Garbhagriha):** The most unique feature of the temple is its sanctum, which is located in a small chamber in the basement, accessible by a narrow flight of stairs. The Jyotirlinga is installed here.
- **Position of Nandi:** Due to the legend of Sant Namdev, the pavilion of Nandi (Shiva's bull) is located at the rear of the temple, which is an exception to the traditional layout.

Festivals and Traditions

Mahashivratri and Chariot Festival

Mahashivratri is the largest festival celebrated at the temple. Lakhs of devotees gather to offer their prayers. The grand **chariot festival (Rathotsav)** held at night is the main attraction, where an idol of the Lord is carried in a procession on a decorated chariot amidst chants of "Har Har Mahadev".

Other Festivals

- **Shravan Month:** The entire month of Shraavana, especially the Mondays, is a period of celebration. Thousands of devotees (Kavadiyas) undertake a pilgrimage on foot to offer holy water to the Jyotirlinga.
- **Vijayadashami:** A palanquin procession is organized on this day.

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Ref: AI Overview

Aundha Nagnath Temple, located in Hingoli district, Maharashtra, is revered as the 8th of the twelve sacred Jyotirlingas in India. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this ancient temple is believed to have been built by the Pandavas and later reconstructed by the Seuna (Yadava) dynasty in the 13th century.

Key Highlights of Aundha Nagnath Temple:

- **Significance:** It is widely recognized as the Adya (first or eighth) Jyotirlinga, distinct from the Nageshwar Temple in Dwarka, Gujarat.
- **Architecture:** The temple boasts exquisite carvings and is a magnificent example of Hemadpanti architecture.
- **History:** Legend suggests the temple was built by Yudhishthira, the eldest Pandava, during their exile.
- **Location:** Situated in the Hingoli district of Maharashtra, it is easily accessible and a significant pilgrimage site.
- **Worship:** The main shrine holds a black stone Shivling, and devotees often perform Laghu Rudra Abhishek, offering Panchamrut.

How to Reach:

- **By Air:** The nearest airports are Nanded and Aurangabad.
- **By Rail:** Closest stations are Hingoli Deccan, Parbhani Junction, and Nanded.
- **By Road:** Regular MSRTC buses and private cabs are available from nearby cities.

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Ref: GrokAI

Here's the updated and refined information on **Aundha Nagnath Jyotirlinga Temple** (also known as Shri Nageshwar Jyotirlinga or Aundha Nagnath Temple) in Hingoli district, Maharashtra, based on the latest available details.

Location and Address

Aundha Nagnath Jyotirlinga Temple is in Aundha Nagnath village, Hingoli district, Maharashtra, India.

Address: Nanded – Aundha Road, Aundha Nagnath, Maharashtra 431705.

Phone/Contact

Primary: +91 8668856667

Alternative/Helpline: +91 9021478049

Email: info@aundhanagnath.in or info@shriaundhanagnath.org (check official sites for confirmation).

Multiple sources list these for inquiries, pooja bookings, and darshan.

How to Get There

By Air: Nearest airport is Nanded Airport (~61 km) with limited flights; Aurangabad Airport (~204 km) has better connectivity. From there, take taxis or buses.

By Train: Nearest stations are Hingoli (~25 km) or Nanded (~61 km). Taxis, auto-rickshaws, or MSRTC buses are available.

By Road: Well-connected via state highways. Regular MSRTC buses and taxis from Hingoli, Nanded, Parbhani (~50-55 km), and Aurangabad. The temple is right near the bus stand in Aundha.

Greatness of This Temple

Aundha Nagnath is revered as one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva (commonly listed as the 8th in many traditions, though some regional lists vary).

It is a major Shaivite pilgrimage site symbolizing divine protection, removal of obstacles, and spiritual liberation.

The temple's sanctity draws devotees seeking relief from doshas (e.g., Kaal Sarp, Pitru Dosh), peace, and moksha.

It is deeply tied to the Bhakti movement through saints like Sant Namdev.

Legends and History

Legends: One prominent story from the Shiv Purana links it to the Pandavas—Yudhishthira is said to have established the original shrine during exile.

The most famous miracle involves Sant Namdev: Denied entry due to social norms, he sang devotionally outside; Lord Shiva miraculously rotated the temple so the sanctum faced him, allowing darshan and emphasizing pure devotion over caste.r

History: The current Hemadpanthi-style structure dates to the 13th century (built by the Seuna/Yadava dynasty).

It has ancient roots (some lore claims over 5,000 years), with renovations (e.g., by Ahilyabai Holkar) after historical damages.

Architecture of Temple, Deities

The temple is in classic Hemadpanthi style (intricate stone carvings, no mortar, black stone with red sandstone accents), covering ~60,000 sq. ft. The sanctum is below ground level (accessed by steps), with the **Jyotirlinga west-facing—a rare feature**. Unique: The Nandi statue faces away from the shrine (behind it).

The complex includes 12 mini shrines for all Jyotirlingas, 108 smaller Shiva temples, and 68 additional shrines.

Sub-deities

The main deity is Lord Shiva as Nagnath/Nageshwar (Jyotirlinga). The premises feature replicas of the other 11 Jyotirlingas and various associated Shiva forms/shrines.

Daily Rituals and Poojas and Their Charges

Temple Timings (approximate; confirm via phone as they may vary seasonally): Open 5:00 AM–10:00 PM (some sources say 4:00 AM–9:00 PM; extended in Shravan).

Mangala Aarti: ~5:30 AM

Madhyan Aarti: ~12:30 PM

Sandhya Aarti: ~7:00 PM

Rudrabhishek slots: Multiple (e.g., 6:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 4:00 PM)

General darshan is free. Specific poojas (e.g., Rudrabhishek) have charges and can be booked online/in-person.

Special Poojas and Rituals and Their Charges (approximate; confirm current rates directly as they can change)

- Jal Abhishek: ~₹2,500
- Rudrabhishek: ~₹4,100
- Panchamrit Abhishek: ~₹6,500
- Laghu Rudrabhishek: ~₹11,000

Other services: Maha Mrityunjaya Jaap, Navgrah Shanti, Kaal Sarp Dosh Nivaran, Somvar Sawari, etc. Book via temple contacts, shriaundhanagnath.org, or authorized services. VIP/Shighra Darshan available.

Festivals

Major ones: Mahashivratri (grand celebrations, huge crowds), Shravan Maas (special abhisheks, extended timings), Vijayadashami, Magha Fair (January-February), and regular Somvar (Mondays) observances.

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation etc.)

Temple trust offers yatri niwas/dharamshalas (e.g., Yajman Yatri Nivas, Shri Jyotirling Devsthan Yatri Nivas, Shri Krupa Bhakta Nivas—some with AC/non-AC rooms, hot water, parking; just meters from bus stand).

Basic food and parking at the temple.

Many opt for stays in nearby towns for more options.

Donation Info and Bank Account Number

Donations support maintenance and devotee services.

Contribute at official temple counters or authorized channels (avoid unofficial sites).

Specific bank details aren't publicly listed for security—contact the temple directly via phone/email or check official sites like aundhanagnath.in or shriaundhanagnath.org for donation portals/instructions.

Nearby Temples

- Mallinath Digambar Jain Temple (nearby).
- **Other Maharashtra Jyotirlingas**: Parli Vaijnath (Vaidyanath), Trimbakeshwar, Grishneshwar, Bhimashankar.
- **Local**: Tulja Bhavani Temple, Sant Namdev-related sites.

Other Tourist Attractions

- Aundha Lake and nearby gardens for peaceful walks.
- The serene rural surroundings and temple complex itself offer a tranquil experience.

Nearby Budget Hotels

Limited high-end options in Aundha itself—mostly dharamshalas/yatri niwas (₹500–2,000/night range). For more choices:

Stay in Hingoli, Nanded, or Parbhani (budget hotels/lodges from ₹1,000–3,000/night).

Check platforms like YatraDham.org for temple-affiliated stays or general booking sites.

Any Other Info

This is a peaceful, powerful Jyotirlinga site blending history, miracles, and devotion. Best visited October–March (pleasant weather) or during festivals/monsoon for spiritual vibes.

Always verify latest timings, charges, and bookings directly with the temple (phone/email) as details can update. Har Har Mahadev!

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Ref: Google Gemini

The Shri Aundha Naganath Temple in the Hingoli district of Maharashtra is highly revered as one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. It is officially recognized as a "Protected Monument of National Importance" and is a significant spiritual and architectural landmark.

Location, Address, Phone, & How to Get There

* **Address**: Nanded – Aundha Road, Aundha Nagnath, Hingoli District, Maharashtra – 431705.

* **Phone**: +91 9021478049 / +91 8668856667 / +91 94225 76002 (Helpline).

* **By Air**: The nearest airports are Nanded (approx. 65 km) and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) (approx. 200 km).

* **By Rail**: The closest railway stations are Hingoli (25 km), Parbhani (50 km), and Nanded (65 km).

* **By Road**: State transport (MSRTC) buses and private cabs are readily available from Nanded, Hingoli, Parbhani, and Aurangabad.

Greatness of This Temple

It is widely considered the 8th of the 12 Jyotirlingas.

Devotees believe that visiting this temple offers protection against poisons and negative energies.

It is uniquely significant as it is closely linked to the lives of three great saints: Sant Visoba Khechara, Sant Namdev, and Sant Jñāneśvar.

Legends and History

* **The Pandavas**: Legend states the temple was first built by Yudhishthira (the eldest Pandava) during their 14-year exile.

* **The Demon Daruka**: The temple is said to be located in the ancient Darukavana forest, where Lord Shiva appeared as a pillar of light to defeat the demon Daruka.

* **The Rotating Temple**: **A famous miracle involves Sant Namdev**. When he was asked to move away from the front of the temple while singing bhajans, he went to the back. It is said the entire temple rotated to face him.

* **Ahilyabai Holkar**: While the original structure is ancient, it was significantly renovated and restored by the legendary queen Rani Ahilyabai Holkar.

Architecture and Deities

* **Style**: The temple is built in the Hemadpanti style (Yadava period), characterized by intricate stone carvings without the use of mortar.

* **Sanctum (Garbhagriha):** A unique feature is that the main Jyotirlinga is located in a basement-level sanctum. Devotees must descend a narrow set of stairs to reach the lingam.

* **Deities**: The primary deity is Lord Naganath (Shiva). Smaller shrines dedicated to Goddess Parvati, Lord Ganesha, and Lord Vishnu are within the complex. Interestingly, the Nandi (bull) is located at the back of the temple rather than the front, following the "rotating temple" legend.

Daily Rituals and Poojas (Approx. Charges)

Ritual / Seva	Approximate Charges
Dudh Abhishek	₹649 onwards
Rudrabhishek	₹1,249 – ₹2,899
Laghu Rudrabhishek	₹7,799 onwards
Maha Abhishek	₹6,399 onwards
Sugam (VIP) Darshan	₹150 – ₹401
Atisheegra (Fast) Darshan	₹751

* **Note**: Charges are subject to change by the Temple Trust. Traditional attire (Dhoti for men, Saree for women) is mandatory for performing Abhishek.

Festivals and Facilities

* **Festivals**: Mahashivratri is the biggest event, featuring a grand chariot festival (Rath Yatra). The month of Shravan and Vijayadashami are also celebrated with great fervor.

* **Facilities**: The temple offers Yatri Nivas (accommodation) and several private dharamshalas.

There are "Sugam Darshan" queues for senior citizens and differently-abled devotees.

* **Donations**: Donations can be made at the official temple counters where a receipt is provided.

* **Bank Facilities Nearby**: Bank of Maharashtra (IFSC: MAHB0000249) and State Bank of India (IFSC: SBIN0021125) have branches in Aundha Nagnath.

For online Trust transfers, it is recommended to contact the temple office directly for the latest verified account numbers.

Nearby Temples and Tourist Attractions

* Sant Namdev Sansthan (Narsi): Birthplace of Sant Namdev (approx. 18 km).

* Mallinath Digambar Jain Temple: A historic Jain pilgrimage site nearby.

* Siddheshwar Dam: A scenic spot for nature lovers.

* Lonar Crater Lake: A famous meteorite crater located about 105 km away.

Nearby Budget Hotels

* Hotel Dev Palace Lodging (Walking distance from temple).

* Sai Resort (Budget-friendly with basic amenities).

* Hotel Radhika Palace (Good for families).

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More info on legends, history, architecture..etc:

Detailed information regarding the Shri Aundha Naganath Temple is provided below, organized by the requested headings:

Legends and History

* **The Pandava Exile:** It is believed that the eldest Pandava, Yudhishthira, built this temple during their 14-year exile.

He reportedly established the lingam to seek Lord Shiva's blessings.

* **The Demon Daruka**: The area was once a dense forest known as Darukavana. A demoness named Daruka (a devotee of Parvati) and her husband oppressed the local sages.

Lord Shiva appeared as a Jyotirlinga to defeat the demons and stayed here at the request of his devotees.

* **The Miracle of Sant Namdev**: In the 13th century, the famous saint Namdev was asked by priests to move to the back of the temple so as not to block the view during his bhajans.

Devastated, he went to the rear of the temple and continued singing.

It is said the entire temple rotated to face him, which is why the Nandi (bull) is now located at the back rather than the front.

* **The Mughal Invasion**: During the reign of Aurangzeb, an attempt was made to demolish the temple.

Legend says a massive swarm of bees emerged from the structure and attacked the soldiers, forcing them to retreat and leaving the temple standing.

Architecture of the Temple

* **Hemadpanti Style**: Built during the Yadava period (13th century), the temple is a masterpiece of the Hemadpanti style.

It uses black basalt stone blocks fitted together with a sophisticated interlocking system (dry masonry) without the use of mortar.

* **The Underground Sanctum**: **A unique feature**: the Garbhagriha (inner sanctum), which is located below ground level. Devotees must descend a narrow, steep flight of stairs into a small, cave-like chamber to touch the Jyotirlinga.

* **Carvings**: The exterior walls are densely covered with intricate stone carvings of deities (Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh), celestial dancers (Apsaras), musicians, and elephants.

* **Reconstruction**: While the base is ancient stone, the upper spire (Shikhara) was rebuilt using brick and lime during the Maratha period, notably supported by Rani Ahilyabai Holkar.

Deities and Sub-Deities

* **Main Deity:** Lord Naganath (Shiva) in the form of a Jyotirlinga.

* **Sub-Deities**: Within the temple complex, there are smaller shrines and carvings dedicated to Goddess Parvati, Lord Ganesha, Lord Vishnu, and Sant Namdev. The position of the Nandi at the rear is a rare architectural anomaly found here.

Special Poojas and Rituals (2026 Estimated Charges)

Traditional attire (Dhoti for men, Saree for women) is generally required for performing Abhishek.

Ritual Type	Approx. Charges (₹)	Details
Dudh Abhishek	₹650	Basic milk offering on the Lingam.
Rudrabhishek	₹1,250 – ₹2,900	Chanting of Rudra Mantras with water/milk.
Laghu Rudrabhishek	₹7,800+	A more elaborate and lengthy Vedic ritual.
Maha Abhishek	₹6,400+	Grand offering involving multiple priests.
Kalsarp Dosh Puja	Varies	Special ritual for astrological peace.
VIP / Sugam Darshan	₹400 – ₹1,500	Fast-track entry to bypass long queues.

Facilities for Devotees

* **Accommodation**:

* Shri Jyotirling Devsthan Yatri Nivas: Located just 10 meters from the bus stand. Offers AC and Non-AC rooms (approx. ₹800–₹1,500).

* Maheshwari Yatri Nivas: A budget-friendly option about 350 meters from the bus stand.

* **Food**: The Yatri Nivas and several local "Khanawals" (eateries) provide pure vegetarian Maharashtrian meals.

* **Other**: Cloakrooms for luggage, parking facilities, and drinking water stations are available near the main entrance.

Donation Info and Bank Details

Donations are handled by the Shree Aundha Naganath Trust.

* **Official Website:** www.aundhanagnath.org

* **Donation Method:** The trust accepts donations via UPI, Net Banking, and Credit/Debit cards through their official portal.

* **Bank Branches Nearby**: Bank of Maharashtra and State Bank of India have branches in Aundha for direct transfers.

* **Note**: Always verify the account number directly from the official temple counter or the verified website to avoid scams.

Nearby Budget Hotels

* Hotel Dev Palace: Very close to the temple, offering basic clean rooms.

* Sai Resort: Located on the outskirts, better for those traveling by private car.

* Hotel Radhika Palace: Known for being family-oriented.

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Photo

श्री औंढा नागनाथ
ज्योतिर्लिंग
श्री औंढा नागनाथ
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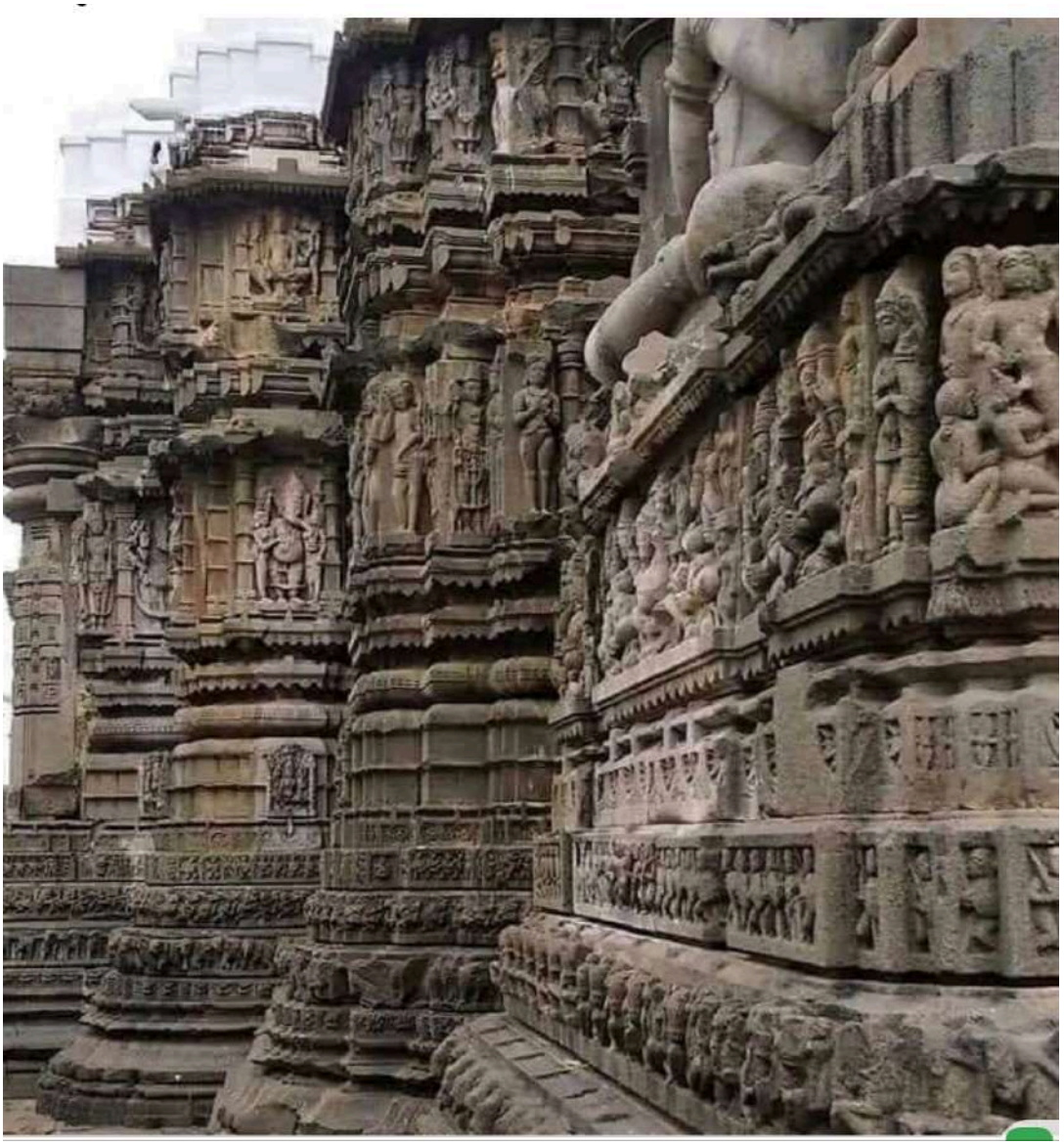

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Videos

Aundha Naganath jyotirlinga temple (13 min);

https://youtu.be/kMft0aDa6cs?si=h5S4pBITrrbcnpNa

Aundha Naganath jyotirlinga temple (13 min):

https://youtu.be/QWF2w1a_YL4?si=OXEd6VALAvALz0gr

Nageshwar Jyotirlinga Temple Guide (10 min):

https://youtu.be/ZAU9y74Mwzk?si=phY4khj6Q8qgTtXM

Aundha Naganath tour guide (8 min):https://youtu.be/g1_C4tFLtok?si=NHOqSrtWkzsUKBlO

Aundha Naganath tour guide (10 min):

https://youtu.be/g1_C4tFLtok?si=NHOqSrtWkzsUKBlO

Aundha Naganath jyotirlinga temple (8 min):

https://youtu.be/rnVbEEgB_gI?si=IWJ-rtk9Zdr_zE4i

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

March 23, 2026

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